

REA, the entire country was linked electrically. The DC tie worked so well in Nebraska that four more ties were put in place across the country. Those DC ties, and the growing cooperation between utilities, brought us to the place where we are today—on the verge of deregulation. Yet, the prospect of change is splintering the industry. Investor-owned utilities and rural electric co-ops are fighting over who is getting the most government help, or the biggest tax break. They are jockeying to write the legislative acts that will change the industry, and debating how the changes ahead will affect everyone from the corporate chiefs to farmers at the end of the line.

So much change. So much dissension. It seems that what we need today is another Dave Hamil—someone to bring the industry together, to get all sides to sit at the same table, and coax all compromises from everyone as only Dave Hamil could have done.

Mr. Speaker it is people like Dave Hamil who have made this country great. Dave Hamil shaped America simply by being a good solid American citizen who works hard to implement the values on which he was raised. He continues to contribute so much because he sees a need and fills it. Thank you David Hamil.

NOTING THE PASSING OF FORMER
CONGRESSMAN GEORGE W.
CROCKETT, JR.

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 1997

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of our former colleague, George W. Crockett, Jr. George passed away on September 7, 1997, after a courageous battle with cancer. I join my colleagues throughout the Chamber and Members of the Michigan Congressional Delegation in mourning the loss of a good friend and a great champion.

George Crockett was elected to the United States Congress in 1980. He came to Capitol Hill to represent the people of Michigan's Thirteenth Congressional District. Throughout his tenure in Congress, they were the beneficiaries of his strong leadership and outstanding legislative skills. George brought to the Congress his compassion as a former lawyer and judge. He also exhibited the ability to stand firm in the midst of controversy.

Mr. Speaker, when he came to the United States Congress, George Crockett had already established a name for himself after nearly 4 decades in Detroit politics. He earned a reputation as an excellent defense attorney before being elected to the criminal court. Throughout his legal career, George won praise for his impartial administration of justice. He was also a civil rights hero who was greatly admired. In 1964, George organized and directed the Mississippi Project, which provided free legal defense for civil rights workers jailed in Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, when he was elected to the United States Congress in 1980, George Crockett brought with him the highest level of commitment to public service. He compiled a voting record which was described as one of the most liberal in Congress. We recall that George Crockett stood with us in the 1980's

when we protested the Reagan administration's drastic budget cuts which would harm America's urban areas. He was also one of the first to call to our attention the plight of Haitian refugees who, under President Reagan, were being subjected to discriminatory immigration policies. I also recall that my friend, George Crockett, was with us when the first Members of Congress were arrested at the South African Embassy for protesting their system of apartheid.

Mr. Speaker, George Crockett was someone whom I greatly admired and respected. His passing brings to close a life that was dedicated to serving others. My wife, Jay, and I enjoyed a close friendship with George and his wife, Dr. Harriette Clark Chambliss. We extend our deepest sympathy to Harriette and members of the family. Our thoughts and prayers are with them during their time of bereavement.

TRIBUTE TO ALICIA PONCE DE LEON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alicia Ponce de Leon. Alicia is a native of Puerto Rico, in addition to being the proud mother of three children.

Alicia is accustomed to overcoming personal obstacles. As a single mother, she has committed herself to helping others to improve themselves through education, empowerment, and employment opportunities. Alicia has obtained associate, baccalaureate, and masters degrees.

For the past 17 years, Ms. De Leon has served as the executive director for the Ladies Committee for Puerto Rican Culture, Inc., an organization committed to improving educational opportunities for minority groups.

Alicia is an elected member of Community School Board 23 in Brooklyn. She also is a member of numerous professional organizations. Her commitment to community activism is truly noteworthy. It is my pleasure to recognize her valuable contribution.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 1997

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, another day has gone by and we have not yet voted on campaign finance reform. Today, our schedules have been interrupted several times by procedural votes called in protest over the fact that we haven't had a vote. Our time, really the taxpayer's time, could have been saved if we were simply allowed to vote on campaign finance reform.

During debate today we voted for an amendment to increase funding for the We the People Program. It is a program to promote citizenship and knowledge of the U.S. Constitution among our Nation's elementary and secondary school students. The vote on that amendment was adopted overwhelmingly. I

wonder what the We the People Program would teach students about the failure of this House to even allow a vote on an issue that the public and a majority of the Members want to see debated and voted on this year. I am embarrassed to go back to the students in my district and tell them that this House does not operate in the manner that our Constitution envisioned.

It is obvious that a growing number of Members want a vote on campaign finance reform. I hope that the other Members who share my frustration will begin to make their voices heard on this issue. I ask my colleagues to join me in calling for a campaign finance reform vote before we adjourn this year. Mr. Speaker, the time to act is now, next year will be too late.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION DISAPPROVING PRESIDENT'S VETO OF FARMER COOPERATIVE TAX PROVISION

HON. CHARLES W. STENHOLM

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 1997

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, last month, the President exercised his line-item veto authority to strike out a provision in the tax bill providing a tax deferral on gains from the sale of agricultural processing facilities to farmer cooperatives. I was very disappointed that the President chose to exercise his line-item veto on a proposal that is very important to U.S. agriculture. However, I welcome the opportunity to debate this proposal on its merits. I am confident that this provision can withstand scrutiny and will receive strong bipartisan support.

Today, I am joining with my colleagues, KENNY HULSHOF, to introduce a resolution of disapproval overturning the President's veto of this provision to ensure that this debate occurs. In addition, we are continuing to explore other legislative options to address this issue. I hope that this issue can be resolved without resorting to a veto override. That notwithstanding, I am prepared to use all means available to me through the legislative process to enact this legislation.

This provision has been repeatedly mischaracterized in the press as a provision narrowly targeted to benefit Harold Simmons. As the principal Democratic cosponsor of this provision, I can say with confidence that this is not the case. I support this provision because it will be beneficial to the entire agricultural cooperative community.

Refining and processing of commodities represent an ever-increasing share of total profit in the agricultural sector. The price paid to farmers for farm commodities represent less than 25 percent of the cost of the final product purchased by the consumer. It is imperative for the American farmer to increase his ownership stake in processing and refining in order to survive in an increasingly competitive market. Allowing farmers to become vertically integrated in their products will permit farmers to better adjust to fluctuations in commodity prices.

Now that we have adopted an agricultural policy that will leave farmers to compete in a more market-oriented system, we must enact provisions to help farmers and ranchers compete in the market place if these farmers and